

Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Summary: The Natural Resources Agency Program Manager will provide a brief update on the progress of BDCP. The Assistant General Manager from Contra Costa Water District will also discuss options that should be included in BDCP for changing methods of conveying water across the Delta. The Council's independent consultant ARCADIS will discuss a workplan for engagement in the BDCP process on behalf of the Council.

Background

On Monday, April 25, a public meeting is scheduled with Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, and Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, David J. Hayes to discuss the challenges and the new process for completing the BDCP plan that includes broader participation. This will be the first meeting under Governor Jerry Brown's Administration. Natural Resources Deputy Secretary, Dr. Jerry Meral, will also provide an update on the BDCP since the November 18, 2010 working draft.

At the next Council meeting, Karla Nemeth, Natural Resources Agency Program Manager for the BDCP, will provide a similar update for the Council on the new progress of completing the BDCP and will also discuss the development of alternatives for a water conveyance in the Delta. Greg Gartrell, Assistant General Manager from Contra Costa Water District will also report on alternatives that should be considered and what that means for the Delta.

Finally, the Council will hear from its independent consultant, ARCADIS, regarding a workplan to engage in the new BDCP process on behalf of the Council.

If the BDCP meets the requirements of Water Code section 85320, including the approval by the Department of Fish and Game as being a natural community conservation plan, and the approval of the federal Endangered Species Act as being a habitat conservation plan, it will be included into the Delta Plan as mandated by the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

By statute, the Delta Stewardship Council may also incorporate all or part of other plans related to the Delta if the Council determines that these plans will assist in the achievement of the coequal goals.

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